

The Canon of Scripture

When Did Our Bible Become Authoritative?

Hebrews 1:1-2

1. Recording

2. Reception

- Tertullian (AD 150-220)
“The Law and the prophets she unites in one volume with *the writings* of the evangelists and apostles; from which she drinks in [receives] her faith”¹
- Irenaeus (AD 130 – 202)
“I have pointed out the truth, and shown the preaching of the church, which the prophets proclaimed but which Christ brought to perfection, and apostles have handed down. From which the church, receiving [these truths], and throughout all the world alone preserving them in their integrity, has *transmitted* them to her sons.”²

“...the gospel has come down to us, which [the apostles] did at one time proclaim in public, and, at a later period, by the will of God, *handed down to us in the Scriptures*, to be the ground and pillar of our faith.”³

“...the preaching of the apostles, the authoritative teaching of the Lord, the announcements of the prophets, *the dictated utterances* [i.e. written records] of the apostles, and the administration of the law”⁴

3. Consensus

- Josephus – (c. A.D. 37/38)
“*From Artaxerxes to our own times a complete history has been written, but has not been deemed worthy of equal credit with the earlier records, because of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets.*”⁵

¹ Tertullian, *Prescriptions against Heretics*, 36, in ANF, 3:260.

² Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 5. Preface, in ANF, 1:526.

³ Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 3.1.1, in ANF, 1:414.

⁴ Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 2.35.4, in ANF, 1:413.

⁵ Josephus, *The Life, Against Apion 1.41*)

